

Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-14

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SAIGON

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMCONSUL CAN THO

AMCONSUL DANANG

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMCONSUL NHA TRANG

USDEL JEC PARIS

USLO PEKING

USSAG NAKHON PHANOM

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E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: PFOR, XC, US

SUBJECT: JULY 13 EA PRESS SUMMARY

INDOCHINA

1. HEAVY FIGHTING REPORTED SOUTH AND WEST OF PP, AND US PILOTS AGAIN FLEW HEAVY STRIKES IN SUPPORT OF GKR. KHMER HELICOPTERS LIFTED 800 MEN BEHIND KI LINES 12 MILES FROM PP IN ATTEMPT AT RELIEF OF KOMPONG KANTUOT. TRUCK CONVOY ON ROUTE 4 AND MEKONG RIVER CONVOY ARRIVED PP UNSCATHED, UNDER US AIR COVER (NYT, WP, WSJ).

2. GEN. WEYAND ENDS THREEDAY VISIT TO SVN, NEXT STOP PP. US SPOKESMEN IN SAIGON SAY TOUR HAS NO SPECIAL SIGNIFICANCE - JUST A FAMILIARIZATION TRIP ON SCHLESINGER'S INSTRUCTIONS (NYT).

3. WSJ SQUIB SAYS PRESIDENT STRAINING FOR CAMBODIAN SETTLEMENT, CITES US WILLINGNESS TO ACCEPT SIHANOUK AS CAMBODIAN CHIEF OF STATE. BUT EFFORTS MAY FLOUNDER DUE TO LACK OF COOPERATION BY HANOI. PRESIDENT MAY THEN PASS BUCK FOR GKR COLLAPSE TO CONGRESS BY ASKING FOR BOMBING EXTENSION, KNOWING IT WILL BE DENIED. HOWEVER, UNCERTAIN PP WILL FALL IF BOMBING STOPS SINCE NO ONE CLEAR ON EITHER SIDES' COMBAT STRENGTH OR WILL TO CONTINUE FIGHTING.

4. ADMINISTRATION SOURCES REPORT US WILL START PULLING B-52S OUT OF SEA THIS WEEKEND. DEPARTURE OF 15 PLANES FROM GUAM WILL MARK BEGINNING OF GRADUAL WITHDRAWAL OF AT LEAST HALF OF THE 200 BOMBERS BEFORE AUG. 15. THERE MAY BE NO ANNOUNCEMENT OF PULLBACK SINCE ADMINISTRATION STRATEGISTS FEAR PUBLIC DISCLOSURE MIGHT UNDERCUT DIPLOMATIC EFFORTS. SCHLESINGER SAID FIGHTER-BOMBERS ARE CURRENTLY MORE EFFECTIVE AND B-52 SORTIES HAVE BEEN DECLINING. COST AND MORALE ALSO FACTORS IN PULLBACK DECISION .

5. NO WORD YET ON WHETHER US WILL SCALE DOWN FIGHTER-BOMBER FORCE IN THAILAND, BUT NAVY REDUCES NUMBER OF CARRIERS WITHIN STRIKING RANGE OF SEA FROM 4 TO 3, AND UNCLASSIFIED

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ONLY ONE OF THESE SAID TO BE NEAR INDOCHINA. SOME OFFICIALS DO EXPECT SORTIE RATE OF FIGHTER-BOMBERS TO "FLUCTUATE DOWN" AFTER REACHING HIGH OF 260 AND FALLING TO 200 SINCE END OF JUNE (NYT, PHINQ, WP, SUN).

6. RICH (WP) REPORTS THAT SFRC MAY TACK LANGUAGE ONTO THE FOREIGN AID BILL TO BLOCK ANY US FUNDING OF THAI MILITARY ACTIVITIES IN CAMBODIA AND TO DECLARE US PARTICIPATION IN INDOCHINA WAR OFFICIALLY ENDED. WAR CRITICS ARE MOVING TO SEAL POTENTIAL LOOPHOLES IN AUG. 15 CUT-OFF; FULBRIGHT TROUBLED THAT WAR IS BEING PHASED OUT, RATHER THAN BEING ENDED ABSOLUTELY IN JURIDICAL SENSE. MCGOVERN WILL OFFER AMENDMENT

CUTTING OFF INDOCHINA BOMBING FUNDS IMMEDIATELY; SENATE WILL LIKELY STICK WITH COMPROMISE AGREEMENT, BUT IN ANY CASE MCGOVERN AMENDMENT WOULD PROBABLY PASS CONGRESS TOO LATE. JAVITS SAYS CONGRESS NEEDS SOME WAY TO "MONITOR THE AUG. 15 CUTOFF" AND TO LET CONGRESSIONAL LEADERS CALL IT BACK FROM AUG. RECESS IF THERE SHOULD BE PROBLEMS WITH CESSATION OF BOMBING. SENATE CUT SVN-LAOS MILITARY AID FROM ADMINISTRATION'S REQUESTED DOLS 1.6 BILLION TO "SUCH SUMS" AS ARE NEEDED TO REPLACE WEAPONS ON A ONE-FOR-ONE BASIS UNDER THE CEASE-FIRE AGREEMENTS (ALSO NYDN, WSJ).

7. US SEARCH TEAM YESTERDAY DISCOVERED WRECKAGE OF HELICOPTER AND THE REMAINS OF SERVICEMEN IN JUNGLE 190 MILES NE OF SAIGON, SIX YEARS AFTER AIRCRAFT WAS LOST (WP).

8. PATRICIA PULLAN (SUN) REPORTS FROM PARIS THAT POMPIDOU HAS PLEDGED FRANCE'S HELP IN REBUILDING SVN. ANNOUNCEMENT MADE WHILE ACCEPTING CREDENTIALS OF NEW SVN AMBASSADOR. POMPIDOU ADDED HE HOPED MISSION COINCIDED WITH RENEWAL OF ECONOMIC TIES. GVN HAD BROKEN OFF FULL DIPLOMATIC TIES WITH FRANCE IN 1966.

9. BUTTERFIELD (NYT) REPORTS THIEU HAS ANNOUNCED MINOR CABINET RESHUFFLE THAT PUTS GVN EVEN MORE FIRMLY IN HIS HANDS. NGUYEN PHU DUC WILL BECOME ACTING FOREIGN UNCLASSIFIED

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MINISTER, A POST THAT WILL PROBABLY BECOME PERMANENT WHEN TRAN VAN LAM, CURRENTLY ON LEAVE TO RUN FOR SENATE, IS ELECTED. THE OTHER SHIFT INVOLVES RELIEVING PREMIER KHIEM OF POST OF MINISTER OF INTERIOR AND PROMOTING DEPUTY LE CONG CHAT. KHIEM WILL CONTINUE TO HOLD HIS OTHER POST OF DEFENSE MINISTER, BUT THERE ARE CONSISTENT REPORTS THAT HE MAY LOSE IT, ALSO. BOTH LAM AND KHIEM HAVE BEEN SUPPORTERS OF THIEU, BUT HAVE BEEN LOSING FAVOR. CHANGES WILL NOT AFFECT SVN'S FOREIGN OR DOMESTIC POLICY.

10. SEIDEN (SUN) REPORTS ON STATE OF SVN'S ECONOMY, THREE MONTHS AFTER LAST GI WENT HOME. AMERICAN ESTIMATES ARE THAT 400,000 WORKERS LOST THEIR SOURCE OF INCOME AS RESULT OF THE PULLOUT. THE ECONOMY IS SUFFERING FROM ACUTE WITHDRAWAL SYMPTOMS: PRICES RISE, INFLATION CONTINUES, AND UNEMPLOYMENT REMAINS. SEVERITY OF CRISIS IS DIFFICULT TO GUAGE AND THERE ARE CONFLICTING ASSESSMENTS. SVN'S ECONOMIC FUTURE IS IMPOSSIBLE TO PREDICT. LOCAL AND FOREIGN INVESTORS ARE STILL RELUCTANT, BUT GOVERNMENT DOES APPEAR IN FIRM CONTROL POLITICALLY, TAX REVENUES ARE UP, AND THERE IS AT LEAST TEMPORARY LULL IN FIGHTING. MANY PIN HIGH HOPES

ON OFF-SHORE OIL EXPLORATION. HOWEVER, MAJORITY OF THE POPULATION IN SAIGON AND PROVINCES ARE POOR BY ANY STANDARDS, AND FUTURE POLITICAL SITUATION HERE WOULD APPEAR TO DEPEND ON WHAT HAPPENS, ECONOMICALLY, TO THE AVERAGE WORKER.

THAILAND

11. RTG OFFICIALS SAY THIEU WILL VISIT THAILAND, POSSIBLY NEXT MONTH, TO DISCUSS INDOCHINA SITUATION WITH THAI LEADERS (WP).

12. RTG WINS \$5 MILLION LOAN FROM AID FOR RURAL CREDIT PROGRAM. CREDITS WILL BE DISTRIBUTED TO FARMERS, COOPERATIVES AND FARM GROUPS FOR IRRIGATION AND STORAGE FACILITIES, AID SAYS (JOFC).

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13. ALLIED DIPLOMATIC DISPATCHES FROM PEKING REPORT REGIME IS QUIETLY PURGING PRO-MOSCOW ELEMENTS FROM MAIN POLITICAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE CENTERS IN PREPARATION FOR CRUCIAL CP CONGRESS. DISPATCHES REPORT STRONG INDICATIONS THAT PRO-SOVIET QUARTERS -- FAVORING RECONCILIATION WITH MOSCOW -- ARE WORRYING PEKING, AND THAT THEY HAVE NOT BEEN COMPLETELY ELIMINATED (UPI, NYDN).

MONGOLIA

14. TORONTO GLOBE & MAIL'S BURNS, IN ULAN BATOR, FINDS THAT IN CONTRAST TO THE "STAGE-MANAGED" TOURS THAT CONFRONT VISITORS TO CHINA, FOREIGNER IN MONGOLIA "IS LEFT LARGELY TO HIS OWN DEVICES." BY CHINESE STANDARDS, MONGOLIAN INCOMES ARE HIGH, BUT SO IS COST OF FOOD AND CONSUMER GOODS -- BOTH "EXTRAORDINARILY CHEAP" IN CHINA. MONGOLIAN STORES, UNLIKE THOSE IN CHINA, STOCK SHELVES HIGH WITH IMPORTS, INCLUDING LUXURY ITEMS SUCH AS GROC. ANOTHER MAJOR CONTRAST WITH CHINA IS THAT THERE IS NO PERSONALITY CULT, "AT LEAST NONE THAT IS PERCEPTIBLE" TO VISITOR. LIKE SOVIET LEADERS, TSEDENBAL INTERPRETS HIS MARXIST MANDATE BROADLY, ALLOWING RELATIVELY HIGH DEGREE OF PRIVATE OWNERSHIP AND TOLERATING PRACTICES THAT WOULD BE CONSIDERED UNTHINKABLY BOURGEOIS IN CHINA (NYT).

FRANCE'S S. PACIFIC A-TESTS

15. FRENCH MILITARY CRAFT AND ANTI-NUCLEAR PROTEST VESSELS PLAY CAT-AND-MOUSE GAME IN SECURITY ZONE GOF HAS DECLARED AROUND SITE OF FORTHCOMING TEST. NZ

FRIGATE OTAGO AND CALIFORNIA YACHT ARE IN FORBIDDEN ZONE, WHILE ANOTHER VESSEL IS EN ROUTE WITH SUPPLIES AND MORE PROTESTERS (UPI, PHINQ). NZ PM KIRK, ON NATIONAL TV, DECLARES OTAGO'S MISSION IS TO ATTRACT WORLD ATTENTION TO NUCLEAR TESTS AND TO CLAIM PASSAGE IN INTERNATIONAL WATERS WHICH GOF HAD NO RIGHT TO CLOSE. KIRK TELLS PARLIAMENT THAT NZ WILL HOLD GOF RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY INTERFERENCE WITH HER SHIPS ON UNCLASSIFIED

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HIGH SEAS NEAR TEST ZONE (REUTER, SUN).

16. IN PROTEST MESSAGE TO GOF, HIROSHIMA AND NAGASAKI MAYORS LABEL FRANCE'S PLAN FOR S. PACIFIC NUCLEAR TESTS AS "CRIME AGAINST MANKIND" AND "RECKLESS ACT" (REUTER).

JAPAN

17. OHIRA TELLS DIET THAT TANAKA WILL CONFER WITH NIXON JULY 31 AND AUGUST 1 AND WILL MAKE TV ADDRESS TO AMERICAN PEOPLE. PM WILL RETURN AUGUST 6 AFTER VISITING NY, CHICAGO AND SF. GOVERNMENT SOURCES SAY TANAKA WILL DISCUSS VARIETY OF ISSUES WITH PRESIDENT, INCLUDING NEW ATLANTIC CHARTER PROPOSAL, INTERNATIONAL MONETARY CRISIS, VN RECONSTRUCTION AID, KOREAN PROBLEM IN UN, STABLE SUPPLY OF FOOD FROM US TO JAPAN AND MST (REUTER).

18. US INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS EXPERT JAMES ABEGGLAN, WHO IS TOKYO-BASED BUSINESS CONSULTANT, BELIEVES DISCIPLINED AND DEVOTED JAPANESE WORK FORCE WILL HELP JAPAN SURPASS US IN WORKER PRODUCTION IN NEXT FEW YEARS. NOTES THAT JAPANESE FIRMS ARE SUBJECT NEITHER TO INTERRUPTIONS OF STRIKES NOR RESTRAINTS OF RESISTANCE TO NEW TECHNOLOGY (AP, NYDN).

19. MITI REPORTS THAT JAPAN'S EXPORTS TOTALED DOLS 17.17 BILLION IN FIRST 6 MONTHS THIS YEAR, AND ATTRIBUTES 24.1 PCT RISE ABOVE COMPARABLE 1972 PERIOD TO INFLATION IN IMPORTING COUNTRIES AND DE FACTO REVALUATION OF YEN WHICH MADE JAPANESE GOODS MORE EXPENSIVE ABROAD (UPI, PHINQ).

20. NYT'S TRUMBULL, IN TOKYO, REPORTS REISCHAUER HAS RETURNED TO INVITE JAPANESE INDUSTRY'S PARTICIPATION IN FINANCING DOLS 15 MILLION CENTER FOR JAPANESE STUDIES PLANNED AT HARVARD. LETTER INTRODUCING PLAN, SIGNED BY REISCHAUER AND FAIRBANK, SAYS CENTER -- TO BE CALLED THE JAPANESE INSTITUTE -- WOULD OFFER "OPPORTUNITY TO TAKE IMMEDIATE STEPS WHICH CAN CONTRIBUTE SIGNIFICANT- UNCLASSIFIED

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LY TO UNDERSTANDING AND THE BETTERMENT OF RELATIONS"
BETWEEN US AND JAPAN.

MALAYSIA

21. MALAYSIA FLOATS ITS DOLLAR AGAINST US DOLLAR,
ONE DAY AFTER SINGAPORE TOOK SAME ACTION. GOM FINANCE
MINISTER SAYS BOTH COUNTRIES HAD BEEN FORCED BY IMF
RULES TO EXCHANGE DOLLARS AT FLOOR RATE OF ONE PER
2.4805 (AP, PHINQ).

22. PRIMARY INDUSTRIES MINISTER SAYS MALAYSIA'S CHANCES
OF DISCOVERING BIGGER OIL DEPOSITS AND JOINING RANKS
OF PETROLEUM-EXPORTING COUNTRIES ARE VERY BRIGHT,
FOLLOWING FIRST OIL STRIKE OFF W. MALAYSIA, WHICH
HAS GIVEN FRESH IMPETUS TO SEARCH FOR OIL. SAYS US
AND EUROPEAN OIL EXPLORATION COMPANIES DOING BUSINESS
IN MALAYSIA HAVE AGREED TO CONCEPT OF PRODUCTION-
SHARING AGREEMENTS WITH GOM, AND ONLY DETAILS REMAIN
TO BE IRONED OUT (REUTER).

23. GODLEY
WIDE COVERAGE GIVEN TO WH AND SECRETARY'S STATEMENTS
DEPLORING SFRC ACTION ON GODLEY NOMINATION AND UNDERSCOR-
ING CONSEQUENCES OF SFRC VOTE FOR FOREIGN SERVICE
AND THE US. CSM'S SAIKOWSKI CITES SOME DOS OFFICIALS
AS COMMENTING IN PRIVATE THAT THEY CONSIDER SFRC DECISION
UNFAIR SINCE GODLEY WAS HIGHLY QUALIFIED AMBASSADOR
WHO ABLY CARRIED OUT ORDERS AND HELPED PREVENT COMMUNIST
TAKE-OVER GKR. OTHERS, HOWEVER, BELIEVE GODLEY
WAS NOT RIGHT FOR THE JOB BECAUSE OF HIS ASSOCIATION
WITH CONTROVERSIAL VN POLICY. NYT'S GWERTZMAN SPOT-
CHECKS FSOS; FOUND "A SURPRISING NUMBER WHO AGREED
MORE WITH THE COMMITTEE ACTION" THAN WITH DEPARTMENT'S
STATEMENT. SOME SAID ACTION WAS DIFFERENT FROM MCCARTHY
WITCH HUNTING IN THAT SFRC NOT AFTER "GODLEY'S BLOOD,"
ONLY WANTS HIS ASSIGNMENT TO ANOTHER AREA. POST'S
MARDER NOTES THAT PROPONENTS AND OPPONENTS OF GODLEY
NOMINATION AGREED THAT PERSONALITIES NOT INVOLVED,
THAT REJECTION WAS A SYMBOLIC ACT IN THE INDOCHINA
DISPUTE. BUT THEY DISAGREED COMPLETELY OVER JUST
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WHAT IT SYMBOLIZED. CITES SFRC SOURCES THAT ISSUE
OF CAREER SERVICE RAISED BY WH AND DOS STATEMENT IS
FAKE ONE. ONE SFRC SOURCE SAID REJECTION WAS REACTION
"TO A PATTERN OF ARROGANT UNRESPONSIVENESS" BY EXECUTIVE
BRANCH TO CONGRESS' RIGHT TO SHARE IN SHAPING FOREIGN
POLICY. ANOTHER SFRC SOURCE SAW REJECTION AS DEFEAT

OF ADMINISTRATION ATTEMPTS "TO ISOLATE AND HUMILATE FULBRIGHT." GLOBE'S JHABVALA REPORTS THAT ONE PERSON MENTIONED FOR EA ASSISTANT SECRETARY POSITION IS US AMBASSADOR TO THAILAND, LEONARD UNGER.

24. SUN SAYS IT HOLDS NO BRIEF FOR GODLEY OR FOR "MISERABLE WAR IN LAOS HE DIRECTED WITH SUCH ZEST AND DEDICATION." BUT THE SFRC IS SETTING A DISTURBING PRECEDENT IN TRYING TO PENALIZE AN FSO BECAUSE HE HAPPENS TO HAVE BEEN GIVEN TASKS OBNOXIOUS TO CERTAIN SENATORS. "IF THIS WERE TO BECOME A PATTERN, ADVANCEMENT-MINDED DIPLOMATS MIGHT SHY AWAY FROM SENSITIVE ASSIGNMENTS FOR FEAR OF LATER PUNISHMENT BY THE SENATE. BECAUSE SUCH A PRACTICE COULD ERODE THE CONFIDENCE AND INTEGRITY OF STATE DEPARTMENT PERSONNEL, WE TRUST THE SENATE AS A WHOLE WILL REVERSE THE FULBRIGHT COMMITTEE DECISION."

COMMENT AND ANALYSIS

25. GLOBE SUGGESTS THAT SEN. BROOKE'S PROPOSAL THAT WASHINGTON "ENCOURAGE THE PEKING-BACKED PRINCE'S RETURN TO POWER" HAS BEEN MISINTERPRETED. BROOKE MERELY PROPOSED THAT WASHINGTON ENCOURAGE NEGOTS BETWEEN SIHANOUK AND LON NOL IN THE INTEREST OF AVOIDING FURTHER AND USELESS CARNAGE. IF THE BROOKE PROPOSAL WERE INTERPRETED AS ONE OF SUPPORT OF SIHANOUK'S GOVERNMENT-IN-EXILE, IT WOULD BE AS MUCH AN INTERFERENCE IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF A SOVEREIGN STATE AS US INTERFERENCE IN CIVIL WAR IN VN.

26. CONCERNING FRENCH PLANS TO CELEBRATE BASTILLE DAY OVER MURUROA, SUN SAYS THAT FRANCE WILL BE CONTAMINATING THE ATMOSPHERE NOT ONLY AT PHYSICAL RISK TO OTHERS BUT AT POLITICAL RISK TO ITSELF. TO FRENCH UNCLASSIFIED

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ARGUMENT THAT NO TOXIC EFFECTS WILL COME OUT OF THE SKIES, ASKS, "WELL, WHY NOT DO THE THING OVER CORSICA?"

27. CSM'S LEO GRULIOW IN MOSCOW DETECTS HINTS OF SHIFT IN FOCUS OF ATTENTION AMONG SOVIET LEADERS TO ASIA AS DETENTE WITH WEST SEEMS WELL UNDER WAY AND VN WAR ENDS. GATHERS THIS FROM COMMENTS MADE BY BREZHNEV ON OCCASION OF NVN DELEGATION'S PRESENCE IN MOSCOW TO OPEN TALKS ON POSTWAR AID AND INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS. UNLIKE LE DUAN, WHO ACCUSED US AND GVN OF BREAKING PARIS AGREEMENT AND CONDEMNED US BOMBING IN CAMBODIA, BREZHNEV DID NOT MENTION AMERICA, ONLY "IMPERIALISM," AND REFRAINED FROM REFERENCE TO BOMBING IN CAMBODIA. HE SAID PATH IS NOW OPEN TO PEACEFUL REUNIFICATION OF VN CALLED FOR STRICT ENFORCEMENT OF PARIS AGREEMENT,

AND EXPRESSED SOLIDARITY WITH THE PRG. BUT HE ADDED THAT IT WAS ALIEN TO SOCIALIST COUNTRIES TO SEEK TO IMPOSE THEIR RULES ON OTHERS, PROCLAIMING THAT EACH PEOPLE MUST HAVE THE RIGHT TO CHOOSE ITS OWN SOCIAL SYSTEM. BREZHNEV CALLED FOR NORMALIZATION OF SEA, INCLUDING CAMBODIA, "WHERE PATRIOTIC FORCES ARE PERSISTENTLY STRIVING FOR GENUINE FREEDOM AND INDEPENDENCE." GRULIOW NOTES THAT AT HELSINKI, GROMYKO SUGGESTED THAT THE PROPOSED EUROPEAN SECURITY PRINCIPLES MIGHT BE MODELS FOR OTHER CONTINENTS ALSO, AND THAT BREZHNEV TOLD NVN DELEGATION THAT THE CLOSE OF THE VN WAR GAVE FURTHER IMPETUS "TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF EQUAL AND GOOD-NEIGHBORLY COOPERATION AMONG ALL ASIAN STATES WITHOUT EXCEPTION." THE WORDS "WITHOUT EXCEPTION" BORE WEIGHT, GRULIOW BELIEVES, IN CONTEXT OF SINO-SOVIET RIVALRY. BREZHNEV EMPHASIZED THAT PROGRESS ACHIEVED BY THE SOCIALIST BLOC IN WORLD AFFAIRS WOULD BE PROMOTED BY "COHESION OF THE SOCIALIST STATES AND OF ALL ANTI-IMPERIALIST FORCES." IF, AS EXPECTED, PRC REJECTS OPENING, USSR CAN CONTINUE TO ASSAIL PEKING FOR BLOCKING UNITY AND DETENTE IN ASIA. REPLYING TO BREZHNEV, DUAN CONCLUDED WITH TOAST TO "COHESION." RUSH

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MOSCOW
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